

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 INRE-00 /035 W  
-----067845 151357Z /43  
O 151259Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1572

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6565

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP PFOR GR US  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SCHAUFLE'S ALLEGED REMARKS TO SRFC

REF: ATHENS 6482; 6532 AND 6544

1. AS INDICATED BY REFTELS, GREEK PRESS CONTINUES TO MAKE A GREAT FUSS ABOUT WHAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SCHAUFLE DID OR DID NOT SAY IN HIS SFRC TESTIMONY, AND GOG OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THEIR SURPRISE AND CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THESE ALLEGED REMARKS. WE ARE CONSIDERABLY HANDICAPPED IN OUR EFFORTS TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE BY THE FACT THAT: (A) WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT AND THUS DO NOT KNOW WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID; AND (B) THERE IS A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PARAGRAPH TWO OF STATE 163757 WHICH SAYS AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE DID NOT USE TERM "ARRANGEMENT" WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT THE AEGEAN AND UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY CONTAINED IN USINFO 131958Z WHICH SEEMS TO SHOW THAT HE DID.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS SHOWED AMBASSADOR A TELEGRAM HE HAD RECEIVED FROM GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON JULY 13 WHICH ADDS FURTHER CONFUSION TO THE SITUATION.  
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ALEXANDRAKIS REPORTED HE HAD ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION AND BEEN TOLD THAT, WHILE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE HAD NOT SAID THAT AEGEAN DISPUTE WAS CAUSED BY "UNUSUAL GEOGRAPHIC ARRANGEMENTS," HE HAD SPOKEN ABOUT "ACCIDENTS OF GEOGRAPHY", WHICH BITSIOS DID NOT THINK WAS MUCH BETTER. FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF HOW SUCH A "GAFFE" COULD OCCUR, AND NEITHER HE NOR ANYONE ELSE IN

GOG HAS PROTESTED OFFICIALLY, BUT HIS COMMENTS CLEARLY CONSTITUTED AN UNQUIVOCAL DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION TO US ON THE MATTER.

3. WE BELIEVE CONTRETEMPS WILL SUBSIDE IN TIME AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S NOMINATION. INDEED, MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS TOLD DCM JULY 13 THAT ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE APPEARED OFF TO A BAD START, THE INCIDENT WOULD NOT GET IN THE WAY OF HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW, IT SEEMS TO US, IS TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE AND AVOID COMPOUNDING THE SITUATION BY ILL-CONSIDERED ATTEMPTS TO RECTIFY IT.

4. WITH ABOVE THOUGHTS IN MIND, EMBASSY SEES THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN:

A. BEST COURSE WOULD APPEAR TO BE FOR AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE TO CALL ON ALEXANDRAKIS IMMEDIATELY TO EXPLAIN WHAT HE MEANT AND DID NOT MEAN REGARDING THE AEGEAN, ASK ALEXANDRAKIS TO EXPRESS SCHAUFLE'S REGRETS (NOT RPT NOT APOLOGY) TO GOG FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING, AND AUTHORIZE GOG TO ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT SCHAUFLE HAD EXPRESSED REGRETS AND EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO THE SATISFACTION OF GOG. IN THIS CALL, IN OUR VIEW, SCHAUFLE SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY CONTRITE OR APOLOGETIC, WHICH MIGHT

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GIVE AN UNDESIRABLE IMPORESSION OF WEAKNESS. ADVANTAGES OF THIS COURSE OF ACTION ARE THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF SETTLING THE MATTER AND WOULD HELP SCHAUFLE'S STANDING SOMEWHAT WITH GOG WHICH HAS BEEN PUT IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BY THE HULLABALOO. DISADVANTAGE IS THAT GOG MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO EXPOSE ITSELF TO FURTHER PRESSURES FROM ITS OWN PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION. IF IT IS DECIDED TO TAKE THIS ACTION WE WILL PUSH MFA HERE TO TRY AND GET OUT A HELPFUL STATEMENT. IF GOG DOES NOT WISH TO SAY PUBICLY THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN SETTLED TO ITS SATISFACTION, IT MIGHT AT LEAST BE WILLING TO SAY THAT IT PLANS TO LET THE MATTER DROP.

B. LESS SUITABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW BUT PERHAPS HELPFUL WOULD BE FOR EMBASSY ATHENS TO ISSUE STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED TEXT OF REMARKS MADE BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SCHAUFLE BEFORE SFRC WHICH WAS DELAYED BECAUSE TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY MADE BY PRIVATE CONTRACTOR WAS NOT RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNTIL (BLANK) . AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE HAS AUTHORIZED EMBASSY TO STATE THAT HE NEVE INTENDED TO ENTER IN ANY WAY INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING

GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS IN THE AEGEAN BECAUSE HE IS STILL BEING BRIEFED ON THOSE PROBLEMS. DURING HIS HEARING HE REPLIED VERY INNOCENTLY TO A SENATOR'S QUESTION ON THE AEGEAN AND DID NOT INTEND TO CONVEY ANY JUDGMENT ABOUT THE CAUSE OR SOLUTION OF THOSE PROBLEMS."

C. A THIRD POSSIBILITY WHICH AMBASSADOR DOES NOT RECOMMEND (ALTHOUGH USIS BELIEVES MIGHT PROVE USEFUL) IS TO HAVE AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE READ A CAREFULLY DRAFTED STATEMENT TO VOA WHICH COULD THEN BE BROADCAST AND DISTRIBUTED HERE. WHILE THIS WOULD CLARIFY WHAT WAS SAID AT HEARING, IT MIGHT FURTHER IRRITATE GOG SINCE IT WOULD BE ANOTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE WHO HAS NOT EVEN ARRIVED AT HIS POST OR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS. CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY ATTEMPT BY AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE TO EXPLAIN PUBLICLY WHAT HE MEANT TO SAY, WHETHER IN AN INTERVIEW OR BY HIS OWN FURTHER REMARKS ON THE RECORD, UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD BE USED BY THOSE HERE WHO WANT TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION AND KEEP IT IN THE HEADLINES.

5. EMBASSY WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION. PLEASE SEND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING BY NIAC IMMEDIATE AS SOON AS IT ARRIVES. KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009